

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1 through 9 are currently pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are cancelled. Claims 3, 6, and 9 have been rewritten in independent form, but without the subject matter of intervening Claims 2, 5, and 8. Instead, Claims 2, 5, and 8 have been amended herewith to depend upon Claims 3, 6, and 9 respectively. No new matter is added.

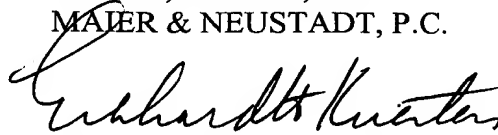
By way of summary, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over de Boer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,616,350) in view of Gerstel et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,746).

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication that Claims 3, 6, and 9 include allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, each of the claims have been amended to include the limitations of either Claim 3, 6, or 9. Thus, in view of the present amendment of Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, and 9 no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)